(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to a news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 4.02.2000 saying "Pakistan has set up a nukecommand" for handling its nuclear programme with Chief Executive General, being its overall incharge; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to Pakistan's reported nuclear threats and whether India is fully prepared to accept this challenge?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government are aware of the hostile anti-India propaganda being carried out by Pakistan, including the call for 'Jehad' against India. Government is also aware of the irresponsible statements emanating from Pakistan about their nuclear capabilities. Government has noted that Pakistan has not declared a policy of 'no-first-use' of nuclear weapons.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Government has seen reports of the establishment of a Nuclear Command Authority by Pakistan. Government closely monitors and continuously assesses all such developments. Government remain fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

Action against declaration of Jehad by Osama Bin Laden

†57. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1570 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 1999, and state:

(a) whether Government have achieved favourable results by raising this matter at international level;

(b) whether the hijacking of an Indian plane was lined with it and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

whether Taliban were affected by the resolution 1267 of United Nations Security Council; and

(c) If not, whether Government have taken some more measures in the interest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) There is growing consensus in the international community that the scourge of terrorism needs to be dealt with resolutely by all countries. The hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight IC-814 was an operation executed with the assistance of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, a terrorist group based in Pakistan having close links with terrorist groups in Afghanistan and also the ISI.

The UNSC resolution 1267 has adversely affected the air links of the Taliban with the outside world.

Government is in touch with other countries on matters relating to international terrorism.

Changes made by the U.K. on Issuing Visas to Indians

58. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Government of United Kingdom have made some changes in the issue of visas to Indian visitors;

(b) if so the details thereof.

(c) whether Indians can still apply in the same way by providing the usual documents etc; and

(d) if not, whether Government would also take suitable steps for the Britishers entering into India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI